

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-16 and 18 are presented for further examination. Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 13, 14, and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 12, 17, and 19 have been canceled.

In the final Office Action mailed December 29, 2004, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-18 on the grounds asserted in the previous Office Action. However, claim 19 was found to be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully request reexamination and further consideration of the claims in light of the foregoing amendments.

Claim 1 has been amended to now include the limitations of dependent claim 2. This claim recites each of the first and second curves of the first type to comprise the addition of:

a constant level, determined by a first parameter,

two half  $X^n$  curves located on either side of the center of the second curve, a common origin of the half  $X^n$  curves located at the center of the second curve and the maximum values of the half  $X^n$  curves at the ends of the line determined by a second and a third parameter respectively, and

a double-top curve with a continuous derivative formed by at least two humps placed end to end and located on either side of a center of the double-top curve, each hump having a null derivative at its top, and each minimum or maximum value of the double-top curve set by a respective parameter.

As discussed with the Examiner in a telephonic interview on March 25, 2005, applicants' representative noted that the foregoing control signal elements are found in allowable claim 19, i.e., the addition of the constant level determined by a first parameter, the two half  $X^n$  curves, and the double-top curve as recited in amended claim 1. Inasmuch as the Examiner found these features to be patentably distinct from the references of record, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as dependent claims 3-9, are clearly in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 12. Dependent claim 12 includes the limitations found in previous

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dependent claim 2 and also in allowable claim 19. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10, as well as dependent claims 11 and 13-15 are now clearly in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, i.e., none of the references of record teach the limitations found in claim 12.

Claim 16 is now allowable claim 19 rewritten in to independent form. Claims 16 and 18 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,  
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